

# Mawayana language

**Mawayana** (Mahuayana), also known as **Mapidian** (Maopidyán), is a moribund Arawakan language of Guyana.

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## Classification

Aikhenvald (1999) lists Mawayana (and possibly Mawakwa as a dialect) together with Wapishana under a Rio Branco (North-Arawak) branch of the Arawakan family. Carlin (2006:314) notes that Mawayana "is closely related to Wapishana" and according to Ramirez (2001:530) they share at least 47% of their lexicon.

## Phonology

Mawayana has, among its consonants, two implosives, /b/ and /d/, and what has been described as a "retroflex fricativised rhotic", represented with ⟨rž⟩, that it shares with Wapishana. The vowel systems contains four vowels (/i-e, a, ɿ, u-o/), each of which has a nasalised counterpart.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Morphosyntax

Mawayana has a polysynthetic morphology, mainly head-marking and with suffixes, although there are pronominal prefixes. The verbal arguments are indexed on the verb through subject suffixes on intransitive verbs, while agent prefixes and object suffixes on transitive verbs (Carlin 2006:319).

*n-kataba-si*  
1A-grab.PST-3O  
'I grabbed him.'

*tōwā-si*  
sleep.PST-3s  
'He fell asleep.'

| <b>Mawayana</b>        |  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | Mapidian   |
| <b>Native to</b>       | Guyana   |
| <b>Native speakers</b> | 2 (2013) <sup>[1]</sup>  |
| <b>Language family</b> | Arawakan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ North Arawak</li> <li>▪ Rio Branco (Wapishanan)<sup>[2]</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Mawayana</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Dialects</b>        | Mawakwa?   |
| <b>Language codes</b>  |  |
| <b>ISO 639-3</b>       | Either:<br>mzx – Mawayana<br>mpw – Mapidian<br>(duplicate code) <sup>[3]</sup>   |
| <b>Glottolog</b>       | mapi1252 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mapi1252">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mapi1252</a> )<br>Mapidian-Mawayana <sup>[4]</sup><br>mawa1268 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mawa1268">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mawa1268</a> )<br>Mawakwa <sup>[5]</sup> |

|                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>nnu</i>       | <i>a-na</i>     | <i>mauda</i> |
| 1PN              | when-1s         | die          |
| <i>chika-dza</i> | <i>Mawayana</i> |              |
| NEG-COMPL        | <i>mawayana</i> |              |

'When I die there will be no Mawayana left at all.'

## Notes

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1. Carlin & Mans 2013:79.
2. Aikhenvald 1999:69.
3. Hammarström (2015) Ethnologue 16/17/18th editions: a comprehensive review: online appendices
4. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mapidian-Mawayana" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mapi1252>). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
5. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mawakwa" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mawa1268>). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
6. Carlin (2006:320)

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